

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. R2-2005-0057

TIME SCHEDULE ORDER

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY - SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 5  
PORT COSTA, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
TO UPGRADE AND REPAIR ITS WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter Water Board) finds that:

**Background**

1. The Contra Costa County - Sanitation District No. 5 (hereinafter called the Discharger) operates a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that serves the community of Port Costa, which has a population of about 230 people. The Discharger also owns and maintains a few miles of sewer collection system. All sewage drains by gravity and/or is pumped to the WWTP.
2. The WWTP consists of a septic tank, sand filter beds, disinfection system and outfall, and treats an average of about 17,000 gallons per day (gpd) of primarily domestic sewage. This is below the WWTP's dry weather design capacity of 33,000 gpd.
3. The sewage collection system conveys wastewater to a septic tank where primary sedimentation occurs. From the septic tank, wastewater flows by gravity to a wet well where it mixes with previously treated wastewater. After mixing, the wastewater is pumped to a dosing structure, which distributes wastewater to a series of four sand/gravel filter beds. From the sand/gravel filter beds, a portion of the treated wastewater is routed back to the wet well to mix with the septic tank effluent. The remaining treated wastewater flows into a contact chamber, where it is chlorinated, and then dechlorinated before discharge into the Carquinez Strait. The discharge is through a submerged outfall and diffuser that provides at least a 10:1 initial dilution.
4. The discharge of effluent from the Discharger's WWTP is regulated by NPDES Permit No. CA0037885, contained in Water Board Order No. R2-2003-0009, adopted by the Water Board on January 22, 2003.

**Treatment Plant Status**

5. During a September 24, 2002, site visit by Water Board staff, the Discharger indicated that it no longer used one of its four sand filter beds, as the concrete base of this sand filter bed leaked. The Discharger indicated that its WWTP can operate efficiently with only one or

two sand filter beds since their current flows were well below the WWTP's design flow. As a result, Order No. R2-2003-0009 limits the WWTP's average dry weather flow to 25,000 gpd until the Discharger certifies that it has made the necessary repairs to the sand filter beds. Additionally, the Discharger explained that it needed to have the impacted sand media on all of its filter beds replaced, but that it lacked construction equipment access to the WWTP since the railroad crossing to the WWTP was destroyed about five years prior.

6. During a March 24, 2004, site visit by Water Board staff, they learned that the one sand filter bed still leaked and could not be used. The other three beds were used, with the flow manually switched between them, as the automatic dosing structure was broken. The sand in all of the filter beds had never been replaced and the base of the operating filter beds had settled such that the surface distribution pipes were broken, allowing the wastewater to pond at the inlet to the beds, allowing for poor distribution of the water throughout the bed.
7. After the site visit a decision was made to upgrade the chlorine and bisulfite feed equipment to an automatic operation, and to provide for emergency power and improved equipment alarms.

#### **Effluent Violations**

8. For the period from January 2001 to June 2003, the Discharger had the following violations of its effluent limitations: four chlorine residual violations, one 3-sample median acute toxicity violation, seven daily maximum total coliform violations, and eleven 5-day median total coliform violations, that are subject to an MMP, pursuant to Section 13385(h)(1) and 13385(i) of the California Water Code, for a total MMP amount of \$57,000, all or part of which may be spent on a Compliance Project (CP).
9. The Discharger proposed the implementation of a CP. The CP includes a subset of all of the tasks proposed in their August 9, 2005, letter, which identified eleven different proposed upgrades and repairs to the WWTP, intended to retrofit the plant with updated technology, which should result in a higher quality effluent. The Discharger is planning to finance the CP through a combination of a State revolving fund loan, grants and/or a conventional loan to proceed with the upgrades. The Discharger anticipates securing the monies by October 2006, and that the plant upgrades would be completed by November 2007. The Water Board finds that the proposed CP is acceptable as it is designed to correct the violations within five years, is in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's February 19, 2002, Water Quality Enforcement Policy and the Discharger can demonstrate that it will have sufficient funding to complete the CP.
10. To ensure that the Discharger takes timely action to fund and complete the necessary upgrades to the WWTP, the Water Board is issuing this Time Schedule Order.

#### **Authority and Basis for Time Schedule Order**

11. Section 13300 of the California Water Code authorizes the Water Board to issue a time

schedule order when it finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the Water Board, or that the waste collection, treatment, or disposal facilities of a Discharger are approaching capacity. The Water Board may require the Discharger to submit a detailed time schedule of specific actions that the Discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements.

12. The Discharger's WWTP needs repairs, and plant upgrades are necessary to assure future compliance with waste discharge requirements. This Order establishes a CP to allow the Discharger to complete necessary actions to the WWTP.

#### **CEQA and Public Notice**

13. This action is an enforcement action and, as such is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with section 15321, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.
14. The Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested persons of its intent under California Water Code Section 13300 to consider the adoption of a Time Schedule Order for the discharge, and has provided them with an opportunity to submit written comments and appear at the public hearing. Responses to written comments are hereby incorporated by reference as part of this Order.
15. The Water Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this Order.

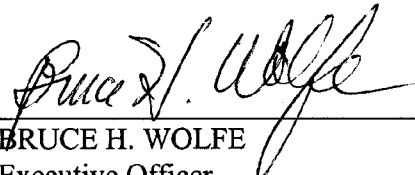
**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that, in accordance with section 13300 of the California Water Code, the Discharger shall comply with the time schedule and other provisions specified below:

1. The Discharger shall repair and upgrade the WWTP in accordance with the following tasks and schedule:

<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Deadline to Complete the Task</b>
(1) Removal and replacement of the impacted sand in filter beds 1,2 and 3	Tasks 1-11 shall be completed by November 30, 2007
(2) Repair of filter bed #4	
(3) Remove and replace liner in filter bed #2	
(4) Obtain temporary railroad crossing permit	
(5) Build temporary railroad crossing structure and hire flagman	
(6) Install new chemical feed equipment	
(7) Install standby generator for emergency power	
(8) Install auto-dialer alarm for equipment	
(9) Install redundancy pumps	
(10) Fix siphons on the dosing structure	
(11) Replace piping for #3 & #4 disinfection pumps	

2. The discharger shall submit semi-annual progress reports to describe the progress of the activities to fulfill the above requirements. Progress reports shall be submitted on February 1 and August 1 of each year with the first report due on February 1, 2006, until the requirements have been fulfilled.
3. If the Discharger is delayed, interrupted, or prevented from meeting one or more of the time schedules in this Order due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control, the Discharger shall promptly notify the Executive Officer with adequate justification. In the event of such delays, the Water Board may consider modification of the time schedules established in this Order.
4. If the Discharger fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer is authorized to take further enforcement action, or to request the Attorney General to take appropriate actions against the Discharger, in accordance with sections 13331, 13350, 13385, and 13386 of the California Water Code. This shall include injunctive and civil remedies, if appropriate, or the issuance of an Administrative Civil Liability for Water Board consideration.
5. The Discharger shall maintain a copy of this Order at its facility so as to be available at all times to facility operating personnel.
6. This Order shall be effective on the date of adoption.

I, Bruce H. Wolfe, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on October 19, 2005.

  
BRUCE H. WOLFE  
Executive Officer